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IDEA-0384
Cy 2 of 8

19 July 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief, DPD

SUBJECT : Future IDEALIST Cover Planning

1. On 13 July 1961, Lt. Col. Robert C. Bundgaard called to report several oral and written requests he has received since making his tropical cyclone report at the June meeting of the American Meteorological Society. You will recall that Col. Bundgaard's presentation before the AMS was intended to serve as a preview of his forthcoming monograph based on typhoon photographs obtained during U-2 flights out of Japan. An eight page digest of Col. Bundgaard's report also appeared in the June issue of Weatherwise, the official publication of the AMS, (copy attached).

2. The chief science writer of the New York Times has written Col. Bundgaard complementing him on the Weatherwise article, stating that with the approach of the hurricane season, the Times contemplates doing a series of articles on tropical cyclones and would appreciate any photographic prints and/or technical guidance he can furnish. I have informed Bundgaard to respond affirmatively to the request and have since supplied him with extra photos which we had prepared for the monograph.

3. Mr. Robert Simpson, Deputy Director for Meteorological Research for the U.S. Weather Bureau has also contacted Bundgaard stating he and Dr. Herbert Riehl, Director of Meteorology, Colorado State University, would like to meet with him on 26 July to discuss a program which involves the use of a U-2 aircraft.

4. Before commenting further on the latter, I wish to note that I personally was most impressed with Bundgaard's report made before an international gathering at the AMS June meeting in Miami Beach. He had everyone in attendance sitting on the edge of their seats and when he concluded, he received an ovation that was longer and louder than any given during the entire conference. Japanese scientists, including Dr. Arakawa, were most complementary during the question and answer period which followed his presentation. Several scientists were quick to state that the superior photographs obtained by the U-2 was the most promising tool to come along in many a year. Some even observed that the ability to obtain detailed photos of storm conditions may produce the key that will eventually unlock the door to many secrets of tropical storm phenomena.

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5. The attached article which appeared in the Washington Post on 14 July is most interesting and I believe, has a connection with Mr. Simpson's forthcoming visit with Col. Bundgaard. You will note Simpson's name appears in the article as head of the hurricane seeding project. While in Florida, I met Mr. Simpson and heard him mention his desire to acquire the assistance of a U-2 to supplement the WB-50, the B-57 and F-106 currently in use.

6. I feel certain that Bundgaard will eventually confirm that the Weather Bureau is most desirous of obtaining photographic evidence of their silver iodine crystal seeding process. The U-2 is the only aircraft photographically equipped to do the job. Bundgaard asked that I determine whether a U-2 can be made available to assist in this scientific venture and if not, furnish him with a logical explanation for the non-availability which he can pass on to Simpson.

7. DPD has retained the A-1 camera which was used in Japan to obtain photos thus far released to the public. We further have a requirement to obtain coverage of Cuba which we could more easily obtain from a base in Florida than one in Texas. There may be various reasons for not staging from Florida, however, I suggest we look long and hard at the possibility of lending assistance in this instance particularly in view of what it may offer in the future.

8. The participation of the U-2 in this particular Weather Bureau program, if successful, will receive wide publicity including Japan where typhoons are a major problem. If the seeding experiment is successful in diverting such storms, a similar operation may be conducted from Japan. This would enable the return of the U-2 to a most strategic vantage point from which we can obtain coverage of the Soviet Union and China. The Japanese would welcome any capability that would assist in relieving them of the suffering they have had to face in the past.

9. Further, the typhoon reconnaissance publicized in the past and the present in stimulating much interest in the scientific community. Scientists are looking toward a continuation of such reconnaissance and there is presently no provision for same. This endeavor is our opportunity to give credence to what has been done in the past. Our failure to participate may well degrade what success we have been afforded to date.

10. I realize that we do not presently have a request in hand, we only suspect that we, with the AWS, shall be invited to participate. I feel we should take advantage of whatever lead time is available in order to properly assess the prospects and benefits so as to properly offer a response that is well thought out and not off the top of our heads.

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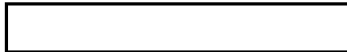
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11. I have asked Major Smith of the AWS to attend Col. Bundgaard's meeting with Simpson and Riehl to both represent Headquarters Air Weather Service and to supply us with details concerning the program, i.e., timing, extent of involvement and personalities involved. Also, he will determine whether the Weather Bureau is willing to absorb or share any deployment costs that may be involved.

12. It is my recommendation that we participate if requested and I would appreciate your views as well as others receiving this memorandum.

13. I have included Col. Geary in the distribution so as to alert him of the AWS involvement and thus grant him opportunity to comment if he so desires.

SIGNED


Chief, Cover Branch
DPD

Attachments:

Press Clipping
Weatherwise (Orig only)

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